

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04958 112321Z

70/45

ACTION INR-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

/025 W

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R 081345Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8939

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL OSLO 4958

CORRECTED COPY (MRN 4958 VICE 4950)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR NO HU IR

SUBJ: BIO DATA ON MOHAMMAD BEHNAM

REF: (A) TEHRAN 9425 (B) TEHRAN A-13, JAN 22, 1974

1. WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON AMBASSADOR BEHNAM ALTHOUGH THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAD MINIMAL CONTACT WITH HIM DURING HIS BRIEF, ILL-FATED TOUR IN OSLO.

2. BEHNAM IS MARRIED TO A SWEDISH WOMAN WHOSE MOTHER, WE UNDERSTAND, IS AMERICAN. BEHNAM HIMSELF IS A MODEST, UNASSUMING MAN IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH HIS TALL, NORDIC WIFE WHO HAS A MORE DOMINANT PERSONALITY. NEITHER APPEARED TO BE ENAMORED WITH OSLO AND, FROM WHAT WE COULD OBSERVE, BEHNAM'S PERFORMANCE WAS GENERALLY LACKLUSTER AND INEFFECTUAL. THE BEHNAMS HAVE A DAUGHTER WHO STUDIED IN PARIS DURING HER FATHER'S ASSIGNMENT IN OSLO.

3. BEHNAM WAS RECALLED PREMATURELY WHEN NORWEGIAN CRITICISM OVER IRANIAN TREATMENT OR

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IMPRISONMENT OF INTERNAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION ELEMENTS,

POSSIBLY COMMUNIST, ANGERED IRANIAN GOVERNMENT
(EARLY 1974). ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS
SHOCKED AT IRANIAN REACTION, TEHRAN'S PIQUE
WAS APPARENTLY SUCH THAT BEHNAM WAS ORDERED TO
DEPART OSLO IMMEDIATELY DESPITE THE FACT THAT
HE WAS IN A NORWEGIAN HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM
A HEART ATTACK. THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN RE-
PORTEDLY REFUSED TO RELEASE THE PATIENT STATING
THAT IF BEHNAM LEFT THE HOSPITAL THEN IT WOULD
KILL HIM.
BYRNE

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